

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 09801 041832Z

ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1331

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 09801

FOR SECRETARY KREPS FROM AMBASSADOR TOON

E.O.11652:GDS

TAGS:UR, EEWT, OVIP

SUBJECT: TIMING OF SECRETARY KREPS' VISIT TO THE USSR

REF: STATE 108367

1. AS YOU MAY KNOW, PATOLICHEV IS IN THE FRG WITH BREZHNEV. IN ORDER PROMPTLY TO STRAIGHTEN OUT THE CONFUSION ARISING FROM HAROLD SCOTT'S TALK WITH THE MINISTER, WE DISCUSSED TODAY THE QUESTION OF YOUR VISIT TO MOSCOW WITH MFT'S N.V. ZINOV'YEV, WHO HAD BEEN PRESENT DURING MY APRIL 6 CALL ON PATOLICHEV AND WHO, IT TURNS OUT, WAS ALSO PRESENT WHEN HAROLD SCOTT MET WITH PATOLICHEV THE FOLLOWING WEEK.

2. WE INFORMED ZINOV'YEV THAT YOU REMAIN VERY INTERESTED IN VISITING THE SOVIET UNION BUT THAT THE JULY DATES MENTIONED BY SCOTT DO NOT APPEAR FEASIBLE. ZINOV'YEV FULLY UNDERSTOOD THE POINT ABOUT SCOTT NOT BEING YOUR EMISSARY IN THIS MATTER AND THAT YOU WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH PATOLICHEV THROUGH ME WHEN THE TIME COMES FOR DETERMINING DATES FOR A VISIT.

3. DURING THE CONVERSATION ZINOV'YEV CALLED FOR THE FILE ON SCOTT'S APRIL 14 MEETING WITH PATOLICHEV AND READ THE CONFIDENTIAL

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RELEVANT PORTION FROM IT. ACCORDING TO THE SOVIET FILE, SCOTT TOLD THE MINISTER THAT HE HAD BEEN AT THE STATE DEPARTMENT, THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF YOUR VISIT WITH YOU AND THAT YOU WOULD SOON BE COMMUNICATING WITH PATOLICHEV ABOUT A VISIT. SAYING THAT HE WAS SPEAKING ON YOUR BEHALF, SCOTT REPORTEDLY INDICATED THAT A TIME IN JULY AFTER THE FOURTH, OUR NATIONAL HOLIDAY, WOULD

BE GOOD IF THAT WAS CONVENIENT FOR PATOLICHEV. PATOLICHEV CHECKED HIS CALENDAR AND INDICATED THAT IT SHOULD BE AFTER THE SEVENTH BUT BEFORE THE FIFTEENTH BECAUSE HE WOULD BE INVOLVED IN MEETINGS WITH AUSTRIANS. SCOTT SAID HE WOULD TAKE THIS INFORMATION BACK TO YOU AND YOU WOULD BE IN TOUCH OFFICIALLY IF THOSE DATES WERE CONVENIENT, PROBABLY THROUGH MKRTUMOV, THE SOVIET TRADE REPRESENTATIVE IN WASHINGTON.

4. WE REITERATED THAT SCOTT HAD NOT BEEN SPEAKING OFFICIALLY ON THIS SCORE, THAT THE JULY DATES DID NOT APPEAR FEASIBLE FOR YOU, AND THAT YOU WOULD COMMUNICATE WITH PATOLICHEV THROUGH ME AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME. ZINOV'YEV WAS REQUESTED TO ASSURE THE MINISTER THAT I WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH HIM DIRECTLY AS SOON AS I HAD ANY FURTHER WORD FROM YOU.

5. I BELIEVE THIS TAKES CARE OF THE PROBLEM. PRINCIPAL LESSON OF EXERCISE OBVIOUSLY IS THAT WE ALL SHOULD KEEP SHORT LEASH ON SCOTT. TOON

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